Proposals for Joint Venture Abroad

1999. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals are pending for joint ventures abroad;

(b) what are the total number of joint ventures operating at present;

(c) what was the position in this regard during 1988;

(d) by what time a final decision is likely to be taken in respect of the pending proopsals; and

(e) what are the names of the countries where these joint ventures will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b). 22 applications for joint ventures are under various stages of consideration. These relate to Cayman Island, Malaysia, Hungary, USSR, USA, Somalia, Nepal, Australia, Singapore, Jordan nd Thailand.

(b) and (c) 150 joint ventures were reported to be in operation as on 30th June, 1989 as against 152 ventures on 31st December, 1988.

(d) Decision on joint ventures is generally taken within 2-3 months from the receipt of an application. However, more time may be required in some cases which need indepth examination of specific intricate issues by various scrutinising agencies, including the Indian Missions abroad.

Directions Issued to Steel Authority of India Limited for Implementing Pollution Control Measures

2000. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has imposed stringent conditions on the Steel Authority of India Limited in respect of massive modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what were the conditions imposed by the Ministry;

(c) to what extent they have been complied with; and

(d) to what extent the Ministry's proposal for earmarking a separate sum for various environmental improvements, has been implemented by the Steel Authoity of India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The provisional environmental clearance was issued in June, 1987 and the final clearance in May, 1989. Several conditions for improving the existing pollution control measures and adopting new inplant control systems during the implementation of modernisation programme were stipulated. The details are given in the annexed statement. (*See* below).

(d) Steel Authority of India Limited has earmarked Rs. 221.11 crores for various environmental protection schemes at the Durgapur Steel Plant.

Directions issued to Steel Authority of India Limited for implementation of Pollution Control measures

Conditions Stipulated	Implementation Status
1. Renovation of sewage treatment plant and oxidation plants.	1. Completed.
2. Installation of flowmeters at all the five outlets.	2. Parshall flumes constructed and flow measurements being done.
3. Renovation of Rolling Mills clarifiers.	3. The renovation work is in progress and is likely to be completed by January, 1990.
4. Repairs to leakage of underground water pipes.	4. Majority of the work completed except at the blast furnace which will be completed during its shut down in December, 1989.
5. Renovation of dust control system for reducing the suspended particulate emissions and fugitive omissions in coal handling plant, washery and foundry.	5. The work is almost completed and the plant is under phased commissioning.
6. The plant will conform to the standards prescribed by the State/Central Pollution Control Board for liquid effluents and emissions from different units of the plant such as sintering plant, blast furnace, coke ovens, steel melting shops and desiliconising plant, etc.	6. The sulphur dioxide levels in the ambient air are within the levels prescribed. After implementation of modernisation the emissions from the blast furnace, desiliconising plant and sintering plant will be within limits stipulated. The steel melting shop will be phased out. The emissions leaks through coke ovens will be controlled. As per plan these efforts are likely to bring down the levels of pollutants within the limits prescribed.
7. Project authorities should prepare a plan for disposal of fly ash for productive purposes.	7. A report on this aspect was prepard and the possibility of use of fly ash for productive purposes through ancillary industries will be scrutinised.
8. The industry is advised not to use coal with more than 0.3 per cent of sulphur.	8. The volatile sulphur content in the coal will be within 0.43 per cent.
9. Air and water quality will be monitored regularly as per standard procedures.	9. Regular air and water quality monitoring is being done and reports submitted to State Pollution Control Board. An agreement has been signed with foreign consultants for providing monitoring equipment/instruments for reguler monitoring.
10. An area of 1000 hectares will be utilised for creating a green belt.	10. This has been accepted and will be developed.
11. No fill material will be brought from outside the plant battery area.	11. No fill material will be brought inside to plant during the construction period.
12. Change in the stock design will not be made without prior approval of the State Pollution Control Board.	12. This has been accepted.
13. Disaster Management Plan for the existing and modernisation stages of the plant will be prepared and got approved by the competent authoity of the State.	13. The Disaster Management Plan has been prepared and it was found to be in order by the competent authority.

Conditions Stipulated	Implementation Status
14. Separate Environmental Management Cell with suitably qualified staff will be set up.	14. Separate Environment and pollution Control Department has already been established.
15. Adequate financial provision should be made for implementing the various stipulations made in the provisional and final environmental clearances given.	15. A financial provision of Rs. 221.11 crores has been made for implementing all the environmental protection schemes.
16. Efforts should be made to reduce fresh water use through recycling.	16. A comprehensive report on water conservation through recycling and rouse has been prepared. The report is under scrutiny for implementation by the project authorities.
17. Effluents treated to the Minimal National Standards will be discharged at upstream of the water intake point of the industry.	17. The effluents will conform to the Minimal National Standards before their discharge, with the completion of modernisation programme. Due to topographical conditions the industry is unable to conform to this stipulation of the discharge at an upstream point and sought relaxation and permission to discharge at a downstream point.

Setting up of biosphere reserves

2001. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas have been identified to be protected as Biosphere Reserves under the MAB programme;

(b) whether any biosphere reserve has been set up so far in the country and linked with the international network of biosphere reserves; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) In accordance with the recommendations of the Core Advisory Group of Experts set up in 1979 and other information 14 sites in different Biogeographic regions of the country have been selected for setting up Biosphere Reserves.

(b) and (c) Seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up as follows:

Biogeographic Region	Name of the Biosphere Reserve (State)
Himalaya Highlands	Nanda Devi (Uttar Pradesh)
Burma Monsoon Forest	Nokrek (Meghalaya)
Bengalian Rain Forest	Manas (Assam)
	Sunderbans (West Bengal)
Coromandel	Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu)
Malabar Rain Forest	Nilgiri (Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Great Nicobar

There is no proposal at present to link these biosphere reserves with international network.